

XII.—ON THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PRODUCED BY THE RUSSELL'S VIPER (*VIPERA RUSSELLII*).

Mr. K. R. N. Pillai, Divisional Forest Officer, Akola, Berar reports 'the destruction of 96 baby Russell's Vipers (probably of one brood) in a hole in a mud wall of the forest guard's *naka* in Jubbulpore.' The Russell's Viper is a prolific snake. A specimen in the Society's rooms produced 62 young at a single effort. Some are content with a family of less than 20. Wall believed from his observations on other snakes that 'the oldest mothers are the most fecund'.

B.N.H.S.,

EDITORS.

5th January, 1943.

XIII.—RECORD MAHSEER.

(With two plates).

Many anglers for mahseer have heard of the Record Fish—119 lbs., but no particulars concerning it have hitherto appeared in the *Journal* of our Society.

I am now able to contribute two very interesting photographs: one of the 119 lb. fish, and one of the next largest on record, 110 lbs.

119 lbs.—This fish was caught in the Cauvery river, Mysore State, on the 28th December 1919, by Lieut-Col. J. S. Rivett-Carnac, 14th Lancers, about 44 miles from Mysore at a place called Muduktore. The bait was 'ragi' paste, the time 9 a.m., and the time taken to land the fish 30 minutes. It was gaffed by Mr. P. F. Bowring, Deputy Commissioner of Mysore, and the photograph was taken by the late Mr. Eugene M. Van Ingen. An enlarged copy of the accompanying photograph is framed and hung in the United Service Club, Bangalore.

The measurements of the fish, and the weight, were certified by Mr. Bowring and were: length 64 inches, girth 42 inches, weight 119 lbs. It is not known whether the length was taken to end of tail or fork of tail, and the usual formula $L + \frac{L}{4} \times G^2$ divided by 1,000 makes the weight 141 lbs. The appearance of the fish in the photograph, and the very short time taken to kill it indicate that it was a female spent by spawning and much out of condition. Otherwise it might well have weighed another 15 lbs.; and as it was cut in two for weighment loss on that account may have been some pounds more. I have no doubt it would have weighed as much as 135 lbs. when in good condition.

110 lbs.—This fish, a female also, as are all mahseer much over 50 lbs., was in good condition. It had not spawned, though full of eggs, and showed none of the usual signs of spawning. It was caught in the Cubbani (Kabani) river, Mysore State, on the 22nd October 1938, by Mr. A. E. Lobb, Kartikulam Estate, about 65 miles from Mysore. The bait was 'ragi' paste and the time taken to kill the fish five minutes short of four hours. It was gaffed by



Photo by

Mahseer, 119 lbs., caught by the late Lt. Col. J. S. Rivett-Carnac, on the 28th December 1919 in the Cauvery River, Mysore State.

E. M. Van Ingen